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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 8, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 3 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 2.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 31 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 532.2 billion ton-miles, down 3.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 3 totaled 380,332, down 6.3 percent from last year, and 0.1 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 6.1 percent in the East, 9.9 percent in the South and 3.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 12 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment increased by 1,233 cars (7.5 percent). Loadings of metallic ores were down 6,049 cars (31.7 percent) and grain loadings were off 6,139 cars (22.8 percent). Fourteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended July 27 totaled 88,496 trailers and/or containers, 0.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 30 weeks of the year was 2,534,688 trailers and/or containers, down 3.0 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/03/85:

	Loadings in Week ended August 3, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,782	D	6,139	22.8	I	12	0.1
Other farm products	2,818	I	262	10.3	D	273	8.8
Metallic ores	13,028	D	6,049	31.7	D	1,041	7.4
Coal	121,916	D	7,819	6.0	I	1,998	1.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,052	I	477	3.8	D	102	0.8
Nonmetallic minerals	9,523	D	3,257	25.5	D	3,054	24.3
Grain mill products	10,207	D	191	1.8	I	273	2.7
Food and kindred products	11,335	I	375	3.4	I	562	5.2
Primary forest products	10,838	D	2,019	15.7	D	86	0.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,596	I	303	4.2	I	409	5.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,729	D	1,208	8.1	I	388	2.9
Chemicals and allied products	23,072	D	662	2.8	I	988	4.5
Petroleum products	4,735	I	128	2.8	I	1	0.0
Stone, clay and glass products	10,618	D	621	5.5	I	194	1.9
Coke	4,827	D	350	6.8	I	187	4.0
Metals and products	9,060	I	57	0.6	I	103	1.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,568	I	1,233	7.5	D	2,002	10.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,272	D	388	4.5	I	256	3.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,955	D	1,050	13.1	I	274	4.1
All other carloads	60,239	I	1,433	2.4	I	571	1.0
LCL traffic	162	I	38	30.6	D	19	10.5
Total Cars Loaded	380,332	D	25,447	6.3	D	361	0.1
Corresponding week of 1984	405,779						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (31 weeks)	11,534,985	12,205,351	D 5.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
30 Weeks ended July 27	514.7	534.6	D 3.7
Week ended August 3	17.5	18.0	D 2.8
31 weeks cumulative	532.2	552.6	D 3.7

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